THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Rural Development has been identified as the nodal ministry for processing the recommendations of the Planning Commission Report on Development of Bio-fuel. For this purpose, TERI was commissioned to prepare the Detailed Project Report (DPR), which was submitted in January, 2005.

(d) and (e) The decision on the fiscal and financial incentives will be made at the time of sanction of the scheme by the competent authority.

Water Conservation Mission

3063. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a "Peoples Water Conservation Mission";

(b) if so, the objectives of the mission; and

(c) if not, the time-frame by when the mission would be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no proposal to launch a scheme in the name of "Peoples Water Conservation Mission".

Constitution of a committee to study the problem of rural population

†3064. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that instead of increase in the employment opportunities in rural areas there has been decrease;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a major portion of rural population is forced to migrate to big cities due to the above reason;

(c) if so, whether Government are considering to constitute a committee to study the above problems of the rural population; and

(d) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) No, Sir. There is

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

no conclusive evidence to show decreasing employment opportunities in the rural areas.

(b) No, Sir. There are several reasons for migration from rural to urban areas.

(c) and (d) Questions do not arise.

Schemes/programmes for the welfare of rural women

3065. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes and programmes formulated and being implemented for the welfare of rural women in the country; and

(b) the details of financial assistance provided to each of the States during each of the last three years for implementing the above schemes in the rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The major schemes implemented by the Ministry of Rural includes Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Accelerated Rural Water Supply (ARWSP)/ Swajaldhara, Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) and Area Development Programmes. The guidelines of the major programmes of the Ministry have provisions which benefit women also. Under the wage employment programme of SGRY 30 per cent of the employment opportunities are reserved for women. Under SGSY 50 per cent of the groups formed in each block have to be exclusively for women who will account for atleast 40 per cent of the total Swarozgaries. Similarly under IAY, houses are to be allotted in the name of women members of the household or in the joint names of husband and wife.

(b) A statement showing the funds released to the States for implementation of the programmes of the Ministry during the last three years is enclosed.